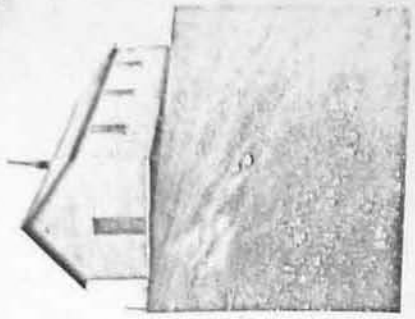
Parchman -6

OFFICE LETTER

To Bruce Crawford, State Directoffice	Date September 23, 1940
From Juanita S. Dilley Office	Referring to
Subject Pictures of Fairview & Clawson Churches	File

Separate sheet for each subject. Omit all formalities. For office letters only.

I had this material ready to send in Friday, with the exception of pictures of Fairview and Clawson churches. I sent those to have them developed about ten days ago and have not gotten them back yet, therefore I am not going to wait any longer. I will send them as soon as I get them.



Juanita S. Dilley
Pocahontas County
Chapter 6 Religion
February 12, 1941

CHURCH OF GOD DENOMINATION

Brush Run Church

The first services held in the Brush Run community were held in the grove by circuit riders who came through during the summer months. This was before they had a school house. Rev. S. J. Boggs a local preacher and the first of the Church of God ministers in this county was holding a meeting in the school house. He proposed the building of a prayer meeting house, but others said it must be a church built in the usual manner. Therefore, on February 25, 1922 a deed for land upon which to build was given by Follen Lambert and Sally Lambert his wife, to C. M. Keller, S. J. Boggs, E. K. Mullennax, James B. Waybright, O. J. Mullennax, J. H. Slater, and Follen Lambert, trustees for the Brush Run Chapel. A Union Church-"to-wit" The Church of God, Methodist and Brethern, or their Successors. Witnesseth that for and in consideration of the sum of $25. cash, a certain tract of land in Greenbank District, etc. It is agreed to and understood that all Christian denominations(excepting Roman Catholics and Normans) are to have the privilege of using the property herein conveyed.

For a number of years the three denominations did use the church, but because of such widely different beliefs the Brethern and Methodists decided that it was causing confusion among their members and that it would be best to withdraw from the church, and get away from these doctrins in which they could not bring themselves to wholly believe. So they went down to

Morgan Collins, who had done so much toward building the church at Boyer, was one of the first to become a member of the Church of God. He became a local preacher of this Brush Run church. Since this is the only church of this denomination in this part of the county, its membership includes people as far away as Cheat Bridge. For a long time this was a very strong church, but it has gone down somewhat since Robert Gilmer moved to Durbin. He was the Supt. and Song leader and the main one who kept the church work in progress. Leonard Hoover, a local boy, is the pastor at the present. There are 20 members. James Waybright was the Supt for a number of years before Gilmer took over those duties.

In 1929 the old Cummings Creek school house was bought by the Church of God people and a class was organized at that place. The deed was made on the 16 day of December, 1929 by the Board of Education of Huntersville District, of the first part and Mary A. V. Pyles, Enoch Taylor and Mary Smith, trustees of the church of God, which meets annually at Anderson, Indiana, of Huntersville, W. Va. parties of the second part.
Said property was advertised for sale and the trustees of the Church of God bid it in at $125. "It is understood and agreed that there is also granted and conveyed all of the double seats in the school building located upon said lot. It is further stipulated that the premises herein mentioned are conveyed as a place for holding Divine worship and that the same may be used for said purposes by any evangelical denomination when not in use by the Church of God."

There are 15 members on Cummings Creek, but they do not have a regular pastor.

These people do not believe in church organization. Their teaching is that the church was organized by God in the beginning and that you become a member of the church when you are born of the spirit, and without any ceremony of receiving you into the church by a pastor. They say that no where in the Bible is man authorised to take any one into the church. That you become a member of the church by spiritual birth just as you become a member of a family by a physical birth. They keep no records, believe only in the New Testament, and they believe in Divine Healing. They are hampered by no creeds, so they say, but have an open mind to receive the light when and as revealed to them by God.

This fighting all organization is one of their main teachings and the one that brought conflict between them and other denominations.